

~~TOP SECRET~~

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27 OCTOBER 1962

FROM: GENERAL NORSTAD, SHAPE, PARIS
TO: THE PRESIDENT, THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON
MSG NR: PRS 2634

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE JUST TALKED TO FINLETTER WHO IS ARRANGING FOR THE NAC MEETING IN THE MORNING.

HE MIGHT BE INSTRUCTED TO GIVE DETAILS OF KHRUSHCHEV'S COMMUNICATION TO YOU AND TO STATE THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE MERIT OR LACK OF MERIT OF THE PROPOSAL, THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION REQUIRES YOU TO GIVE IT FULL CONSIDERATION. IN MY JUDGEMENT, FINLETTER'S PRESENTATION SHOULD BE BRIEF, FACTUAL AND SHOULD BE COOL AND SKEPTICAL, WITHOUT SUGGESTING THAT YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED A FIRM AND FINAL POSITION.

THE RESULTING DISCUSSION WOULD, I HOPE, BE USEFUL TO YOU AS AN INDICATION OF THE EUROPEAN OPINION AND MIGHT DEVELOP SOME ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU IN MAKING YOUR DECISION. IN ANY EVENT, IT SHOULD HELP TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH YOU CAN BE WRONG WHATEVER YOU DO AND YOUR ALLIES CAN BE RIGHT AND WISE REGARDLESS OF DEVELOPMENTS. IT ALSO, OF COURSE, FULLY MEETS THE CONSULTATION COMMITMENT.

NO MATTER HOW PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL AN NAC DISCUSSION MAY BE, IT WILL NOT, I FEAR, SUBSTANTIALLY RELIEVE YOU OF THE BURDEN OF MAKING A DIFFICULT DECISION.

MANY QUESTIONS WILL ARISE AS THIS SUBJECT IS CONSIDERED.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11653, S-1, 2(1) and 5(2) or (3)

DDP 2/18/75 NLK-76-19

By: MFD Date: 4/16/75

~~TOP SECRET~~

PAGE 1 OF 2

~~TOP SECRET~~

8

AMONG THESE ARE;

(A) ARE MISSILES IN CUBA ON THE SAME BASIS AS THOSE IN TURKEY?
CLEARLY THE ANSWER IS NO.

(B) CAN TURKEY BE TREATED AS A SATELLITE EVEN IF KHRUSHCHEV
SEEMS NOW PUBLICLY TO HAVE PLACED CUBA IN THAT CATEGORY?

(C) ALTHOUGH ACCEPTING THE KHRUSHCHEV PROPOSAL MAY BRING
SHORT TERM RELIEF, WILL SUCH ACTION BE TAKEN AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS?
IN ANY CASE, WILL IT CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING OUR LONGER RANGE
POSITION?

(D) WOULD AN ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL INDICATE THAT THE
THREAT OF MISSILES POINTED AT THE U.S. CAN FORCE A WEAKENING OF OUR
NATO DEFENSES UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE WHEREAS MRBM'S SITED AGAINST
EUROPE HAVE STRENGTHENED OUR DEFENSE AND OUR RESOLVE?

(E) WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT ON GREECE AND TURKEY BOTH OF
WHOM LIVE IN A CONSTANT FEAR OF BEING LEFT ALONE?

THIS IS A VERY INCOMPLETE LIST OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH COME TO MIND
AS ONE CONSIDERS THIS PROBLEM. THE ANSWERS SEEM TO ME TO ADD UP TO A
REJECTION OF KHRUSHCHEV'S PROPOSAL AND I BELIEVE FINLETTER SHOULD BE
INSTRUCTED TO INDICATE THIS AS THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF U.S. THINKING.

FAITHFULLY,

LAURIS NORSTAD

PAGE 2 OF 2

~~TOP SECRET~~

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